Varanasi, U.P. has been sanctioned but the same have not been started yet; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Works of extension & strengthening of existing runway, taxiway, apron, construction of isolation bay, link taxiway and construction of new terminal building for 800 passengers capacity have been sanctioned at Varanasi airport. Except runway extension and construction of terminal building, the above works have been awarded and are in progress.

(b) Work of runway extension and terminal building will be taken up by AAI, after diversion of a public road by the State Government. The road passes through the runway extension area.

Haj Traffic

2862. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the carriers of Haj traffic during 2000, 2001 and 2002 with Haj fares as fixed by Government and paid to the carriers per pilgrim, year-wise;

(b) the prevailing New Delhi-Jeddah-New Delhi IATA fares in US Dollars and Indian Rupees at the time of fixation, Haj-wise;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims who availed of the Haj service, year-wise;

(d) the Haj fare paid by the pilgrims, year-wise ; and

(e) the total amount paid to the carriers out of Government funds as subsidy, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) During Haj-2000, M/s. Mido Aviation carried haj pilgrims. For Haj-2001, M/s. Kampuchea Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines were hired for haj transportation. And for Haj-2002, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Air India and Indian Airlines transported haj pilgrims

from various gateway points in India to Jeddah and back. The per pilgrim total cost estimated by the Government for Haj-2000, Haj-2001 and Haj-2002 was Rs. 28,526/-, Rs. 34,122/-(prov.) and Rs. 37,842/- (prov.) respectively. However, pilgrims paid only Rs. 12000/- during this period and the remaining amount was paid by Government as subsidy, during these 3 years.

(b) The IATA fares in US dollar on Delhi-Jeddah-Delhi sector during the year 2000, 2001 and 2002 were US$702, US$774 and US$741 which is equivalent to Rs. 31,460; Rs. 36,340 and Rs. 36,340 respectively.

(c) The haj pilgrims carried to/from Jeddah during the Haj 2000, 2001 and 2002 were 71924, 70913 and 70298 respectively.

(d) The haj air fare paid by each pilgrim was Rs. 12000/-during each of the three years 2000-2001 and 2002.

(e) The estimated amount paid/payable to the carriers by Government as subsidy for the Haj-2000, Haj-2001 and Haj-2002 was Rs. 122.54 crore, Rs. 146.12 crore (prov.) and Rs. 163.80 crore (prov.) respectively.

Air ticket booking facilities

†2863. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of district headquarters having booking facilities of one or more airlines; State-wise; and

(b) whether his Ministry would consider provision of booking facilities in the major cities of such States where air services are minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.